

Prof. Schlegel had united the two latter species together, which he would hardly have done if he had seen the living birds.

The following papers were read:—

1. Notes on the Mammals and Birds of Cape York, with Description of Two New Rodents of the Genus *Hapalotis*. By GERARD KREFFT, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S.

Some months ago I purchased for the Australian Museum a few Mammals and Birds collected at Cape York, among which were several specimens of a very large *Hapalotis*, for which I propose the name of

*HAPALOTIS CAUDIMACULATA**.

Fur harsh and coarse, reddish brown upon the back, and grey on the sides, beneath white. The hair appears stiff and shiny, and consists of some which is grey at the base, white or yellowish white on the upper part, generally tipped with brown, and of much longer and stiffer brown hairs, the tips of which are almost black. Thin silvery hairs cover the feet; and an elongate patch of a darker hue commences at the elbow, runs tapering along the outside of the arm, and stops at the base of the third toe. A similar band is indicated on the hind feet, extending from a little above the heel to the base of the third toe; the marks are caused by the white hair being tipped with brown. The nails are large, very broad at the base, and not very sharp, the animal frequenting rocks more than trees. The first toe is very short, and has a broad blunt round nail. There is a black elongate mark above and below the eye, and on each corner the skin appears destitute of a hairy covering. The whiskers are black, strong, and very long, reaching far beyond the ear, which is of moderate size, flesh-colour, and covered with short hair. The tail is quite nude, and the scales on it, which are large and coarse, do not overlap each other. Various individuals differ in the coloration of the caudal appendage; but in all of them is the apical portion white, but sometimes more or less spotted with black, and the basal part black, and occasionally spotted with white; though generally the tail is about half black and half white, yet there is one specimen in which the black colour covers only one-third of the whole. The measurements of one of the dry skins are as follows:—

	inches.
From tip of nose to base of tail	28
Tail	13½
Face to base of ear	3
Ear	1
Fore leg to elbow	3
Tarsus and toes	2½

* A subsequent communication from Mr. Krefft points out that this may be the same as Dr. Gray's *Mus macropus* (P. Z. S. 1866, p. 221).—P. L. S.

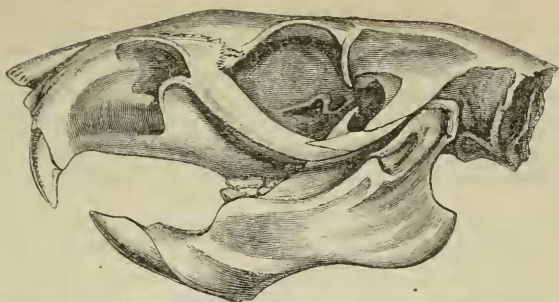


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

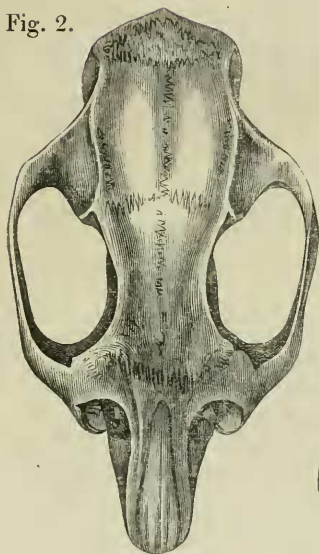


Fig. 3.

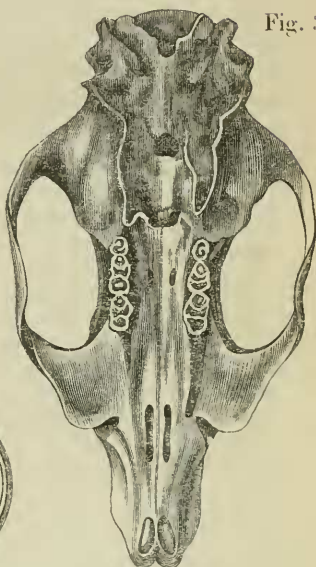


Fig. 4.

Fig. 6.



Fig. 5.

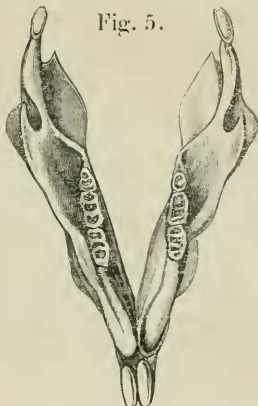


Fig. 7.



Figs. 1, 2, 3. Skull of *Hapalotis caudimaculata*.
 4. Incisor of ditto, n. s.
 5. Lower jaw of ditto from above

Fig. 6. Right upper molar series magnified.
 7. Lower ditto.

The skull of this Rat differs considerably from that of all other species of *Hapalotis* with which I am acquainted. In the small species the brain-cavity is dome-shaped, the parietals expand towards behind, and the occiput is rounded off; the frontals almost form a triangle, and are consequently very narrow between the zygomatic arches. The present large species differs considerably, as will be seen from the accompanying sketches by Miss Harriet Scott's pencil.

The skull (figs. 1, 2, 3, p. 317) is elongate, not very broad, and narrows considerably towards the occiput; the frontals are depressed and smallest in the middle; the parietals, also narrow and depressed, form an oblong square, as long again as broad. The teeth (figs. 4-7, p. 317) (as usual, $I, \frac{2}{2}$, $M, \frac{3-3}{3-3} = 16$ in number) are of moderate size, the upper incisor forming more than the half of a circle. The molars are much worn in the specimen before me; the first tooth has three, the second two, and the last one fold. In the lower jaw these worn-down tubercles or folds are four, three, and two respectively.

Another, smaller Rat in the collection is probably a young individual. The tail is similarly spotted, the whiskers are long and black, but the fur appears softer and longer. I had no opportunity of examining the skull.

HAPALOTIS PERSONATA, sp. nov.

This is also a coarse-haired Rat, similar in colour to the previous species, but distinguished by a black mark from the side of the nose to the eye, which is surrounded by it. The fur beneath is sandy white; and on the sides each hair is mottled with light-brown patches (sometimes in the middle, and occasionally at the tip), giving the fur rather a dirty appearance. The tail is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long (the body 9 inches), covered with coarse irregular scales, between which a few stiff hairs are visible. The skull resembles that of *Mus hirsutus*. In the upper jaw the first tooth has three tubercles of almost equal size, the second also three (the inner one very small), and the third two (the inner less than half the size of the outer one). The teeth of the lower jaw have four, three, and two tubercles.

A Bat probably referable to the genus *Petalia*, but not so large as *Scotophilus morio*, was found in the collection; and the Australian Museum is in possession of another specimen from Rockhampton. This Bat is tailless, has a pointed muzzle, and is provided with teeth resembling those of the genus *Pteropus*.

I also obtained a single skin of a *Perameles* from the same locality, which differs from *P. nasuta* and *P. obesula*. It has the harsh bristly fur of the latter, is, however, of a much lighter hue, and beneath quite white. It is larger than *P. obesula*, but not so large as *P. nasuta*. The dentition is very perfect and not much worn; but all the skulls of *P. obesula* or *P. nasuta* at my disposal have the teeth so much ground down that comparison is impossible. I consider this species identical with *P. doreyana* of Quoy and Gaim.

The collection of birds contains nothing remarkable, except a *Pitta* not hitherto recorded from Australia—*P. mackloti*, Temm. I may also observe that the northern *Pitta strepitans* is not only a much smaller bird than the southern one, but differs considerably in the markings, and the shape of the bill and feet. The blue spot on the shoulder is comparatively larger, the colour of the head lighter brown, and, whilst the *P. strepitans* of New South Wales has from three to four white spots on the primaries, the northern bird has only two. I wish to draw the attention of ornithologists to these facts, as I have seen only a single specimen of *P. strepitans* from Cape York.

2. Notes on the Birds of Chili. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

Messrs. Philippi and Landbeck, of the Museum of Santiago in Chili, have been kind enough to supply me with typical specimens of a certain number of the new species of Chilian birds recently described by them in Wiegmann's 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte,' along with other specimens of birds from that country. It has been of the greatest interest to me to examine these specimens, and to compare them with examples in my own collection and that of Mr. Salvin; and I beg leave to communicate to the Society the following notes on them.

The most recent summary of Chilian ornithology is that given by Dr. Hartlaub in 'Naumannia' for 1853. Dr. Hartlaub has there enumerated the principal sources of our knowledge of the avifauna of this country. As more recent authorities to be consulted on this subject I may add:—

(1) Mr. Cassin's article on the Birds obtained during the U. S. Naval Astronomical Expedition to the Southern Hemisphere, under the command of Lieut. Gilliss, published in the second volume of the Report of that Expedition*. Washington, 1855.

(2) Herr v. Pelzeln's volume on the Birds of the Novara Expedition. Wien, 1865.

(3) Dr. Philippi and Herr Landbeck's numerous articles in Wiegmann's 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte' †.

* In relation to this, consult my remarks, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 18.

† The following are the titles of these articles, and the names of the new species of birds described in them:—

(1) "Ueber einige Vögel Chile's, von Dr. R. A. Philippi," Wiegmann's Arch. 1855, p. 9. (*Phœnicopterus andinus*, sp. nov., *Ardea cocoi*, *Xanthornus cayennensis*, *Circus macropterus*.)

(2) "Ueber einige Chilenische Vögel und Fische, von Dr. R. A. Philippi," Wiegmann's Arch. 1857, p. 262. (*Rallus salinasi*, sp. nov., *Upucerthia atacamensis*, sp. nov., *Totanus chilensis*, sp. nov., *Culicivora fernandeziana*, sp. nov.)

(3) "*Pteroptochus albifrons*, sp. nov., von Ludwig Landbeck," Wiegmann's Arch. 1857, p. 273.